

IKAR: The Essentials of Judaism

Class Schedule and Syllabus 2018—2019

Classes are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, typically at the Boulder JCC, 6007 Oreg Ave.

The class on October 18, 2018, will be held at Congregation Har Hashem, 3950 Baseline Road, Boulder, and the location for the February 21, 2019, class is to be determined.

Learning Block 1 - Instructor: Morah Yehudis Fishman

10/11/18 Class 1 – Bereishit: In the Beginning (See pp. 9-15.)

Segment 1 - What is this class about?

Segment 2 - How is Jewish time marked?

10/18/18 Class 2 – Rosh HaShanah (See pp. 16-30.)

Special Location: Congregation Har HaShem

Segment 1 - What is Rosh HaShanah?

Segment 2 - What are some of the ways Rosh HaShanah is commemorated /celebrated?

10/25/18 Class 3 – Yom Kippur (See pp. 31-39.)

Segment 1 - What is Yom Kippur?

Segment 2 - What are Jewish values?

Learning Block 2 - Instructor: Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith

11/1/18 Class 4 – Sukkot and Simchat Torah (See pp. 40-58.)

Segment 1 - What are Sukkot and Simchat Torah?

Segment 2 - What are the major books of Judaism? How are they connected?

11/8/18 Class 5 – Shabbat (See pp. 59-71.)

Segment 1 - What is Shabbat?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Shabbat is celebrated?

11/15/18 Class 6 – Conversion (See pp. 72-77.)

Special guests to be announced.

Segment 1 - Who is a Jew?

Segment 2 - What is the conversion process like?

11/22/17 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving

Learning Block 3 - Instructor: Rabbi Ori Har DiGennaro

11/29/18 Class 7 Rituals of Birth through Adolescence (pp. 78-95.)

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding birth?

Segment 2 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding adolescence?

12/6/18 Class 8 – Chanukah (See Lesson 10 in the Reader, pp. 130-146.) *

Segment 1 - What does Chanukah commemorate?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Chanukah is commemorated and celebrated?

12/13/18 Class 9 – Marriage and Divorce (See Lesson 8 in the Reader, pp. 96-108.) *

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding marriage?

Segment 2 - How does Judaism address divorce?

12/20/18 NO CLASS – Winter Break

12/27/18 NO CLASS – Winter Break

1/3/19 NO CLASS – Winter Break

Learning Block 4 - Instructor: tbd

1/10/19 Class 10 – Death and Afterlife (See Lesson 9 in the Reader, pp. 109-129.) *

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding death?

Segment 2 - What are the Jewish beliefs concerning afterlife?

1/17/19 Class 11 – Tu B'Shevat (See Lesson 14 in the Reader, pp. 202-219.) *

Segment 1 - What is Tikun Olam?

Segment 2 - What is Tu B'Shevat?

1/24/19 Class 12 – God (See Lesson 11 in the Reader, pp. 147-166) *

Segment 1 - Who is God?

Segment 2 - Why does God act as God does?

Learning Block 5 - Instructor: Rabbi Ruth Gelfarb

1/31/19 Class 13 – Prayer (See Lesson 12 in the Reader, pp. 167-182.) *

Segment 1 - What is the importance and value of prayer?

Segment 2 - What are some different models of Jewish prayers?

2/7/19 Class 14 – Denominations of Judaism (See Lesson 13, pp. 183-201.) *

Segment 1 - How did Judaism come to look as it does today?

Segment 2 - What unites the different denominations?

2/14/19 Class 15 – Purim (and Mysticism. See Lesson 15 in the Reader, pp. 220-242.) *

Segment 1 - What is Purim?

Segment 2 - What is Jewish mysticism?

Learning Block 6 - Instructor: Rabbi Fred Greene

2/21/19 Class 16 – Jewish History (See *Lesson 17* in the Reader, pp. 262-278.) *

Special Location: To be determined

Segment 1 - What is the role of history? Memory?

Segment 2 - How does Jewish history impact me?

2/28/19 Class 17 – Anti-Semitism (See *Lesson 18* in the Reader, pp. 279-312.) *

Segment 1 - What is the history of Anti-Semitic feelings and actions?

Segment 2 - How does the Holocaust impact us today?

3/7/19 Class 18 – Zionism and Israel (See *Lesson 19* in the Reader, pp. 313-340.) *

Segment 1 - How did Israel come to be?

Segment 2 - What is the current situation in Israel?

Learning Block 7 - Instructor: Rabbi Marc Soloway

3/14/19 Class 19 – Passover (See *Lesson 16* in the Reader, pp. 243-261.) *

Segment 1 - What does Passover commemorate?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Passover is commemorated and celebrated?

3/21/19 NO CLASS – Purim

3/28/19 NO CLASS – Spring Break

4/4/19 Class 20 – Shavuot (See pp. 341-366.)

Segment 1 - What does Shavuot commemorate?

Segment 2 - What is the purpose of the commandments?

4/11/19 Class 21 – Intro to Jewish Community (See pp. 367-376.)

Segment 1 - What are my options for community involvement?

Segment 2 - What questions do I still have?

Make-up Session and Snow-date - Instructor: tbd

4/18/19 Snow-date make-up class, if needed

* These lessons are out of sequence from the course materials to accommodate the Jewish calendar. Please follow indicated page numbers.